

MOBILITY FOR ALL

Through the Mobility For All program, GPCOG and PACTS engage a broad range of community members and organizations in improving transportation access for people who experience barriers. Mobility For All initiatives use inclusive practices to involve older adults, people with disabilities, people of color, and other underserved communities in transportation planning and decision-making. Key Mobility For All initiatives are described below.

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Transportation & Community Network helps Southern Maine coordinate, create, and manage mobility options. The Network brings together key stakeholders to share information and work together on improving transportation access and options for people who experience barriers. The Network includes more than 80 stakeholders from sectors impacted by transportation barriers, as well as individuals with first-hand experience, including older adults, people with disabilities and people of color. The Network meets on the third Tuesday of each month on the lower level of the Portland Public Library from 10:30 am to noon. New members are always welcome.



Mobility Liaison Mireille Kabongo speaking at a PACTS meeting.

MOBILITY LIAISONS

Mobility Liaisons are individuals who have personal experience with mobility and transportation challenges (this might be because of disability, age, income, language, or other reasons), the ability to describe challenges faces by themselves and their peers, and a solutions-oriented and problem-solving mindset. Mobility Liaisons share their expertise and ideas with GPCOG and PACTS by volunteering with the Mobility For All program. Activities include: Assisting with focus groups; Collecting feedback; Promoting surveys; and Recruiting other stakeholders. In 2019, Mobility Liaisons co-developed and co-facilitated the Community Transportation Leaders program.

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR MAINE

The Mobility Solutions for Maine project will catalyze coordination and innovation to ingrain the use of mobility management approaches on the state and local level. The project's statewide aim is development of a grassroots, multi-sector mobility management network for the state. The project's regional goal is to conduct pilots that test approaches to improving regional access to transportation information, supports, and resources among populations who face transportation challenges.

Funded by an award from the Federal Transit Administration's Access and Mobility Grant Program that runs through September 2021, the Mobility Solutions for Maine project includes three goals with related strategies:

1. Improve Coordination Among Statewide Transportation Stakeholders: Develop a statewide, multi-sector mobility management network called Moving Maine
2. Improve Access to Transportation Resources and Information: Develop the pilot design for a regional resource and referral service as a model for Maine.
3. Build Capacity for Mobility Management Programs Across Maine: Develop the structure of and pilot activities for a regional management program in Southern Maine.

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INCLUSIVE PLANNING

Through the Inclusive Transportation Planning Project, GPCOG and PACTS have been engaging older adults, people with disabilities, people of color, and other underrepresented communities in shaping a more inclusive regional transportation system.

In 2018, the project Steering Committee developed a set of six recommendations to identify systemic ways to include underrepresented communities. The Inclusive Transportation Planning Recommendations were unanimously approved by the PACTS Policy Committee to inform the 2019 update of the PACTS Public Involvement Plan. The Recommendations are leading to new policies and practices to ensure that transportation planning and decision-making takes into account the views of those whose lives are affected the most.

- **Transportation Planning Toolkit**

The Inclusive Transportation Planning Toolkit (PDF) was developed to support planners, consultants, and municipalities in advancing access to the planning process. The Toolkit offers local and national resources on best practices for accessible and inclusive planning.

- **Community Transportation Leaders Training Program**

In 2019, GPCOG staff partnered with Mobility Liaisons to develop and pilot the Community Transportation Leaders Training Program. The inaugural class of 23 engaged and energized participants presented to the PACTS Executive Committee about their top transportation concerns – including why they matter and their ideas for solutions. PACTS is exploring offering the training on an ongoing basis. Training program goals include:

- Supporting community members to gain the knowledge and tools needed for meaningful participation in transportation planning and decision-making.
- Providing a peer-to-peer network to assist participants in acting on the goals they set.
- Enabling decision-makers to hear directly from participants about the transportation needs and experiences of underrepresented communities.
- Acting as a gateway for participation in transportation decision-making



Community Transportation Leaders presenting to PACTS